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Dr. Corey Wiggins Federal Co-Chairman Delta Regional Authority 236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400 Clarksdale, MS 38614

Dear Dr. Wiggins:

It is my understanding that Missouri State University – West Plains has applied for funding through the Delta Regional Authority's Workforce Development Grant Program. This funding will provide additional training and educational opportunities to incumbent members of the area's workforce.

If awarded, Missouri State University – West Plains plans to increase the capacity of the current manufacturing program by engaging underemployed and underrepresented groups. This will be done by expanding education and career training programs within the manufacturing sector. Funding will also allow Missouri State University – West Plains to add an additional program and double their current enrollment over the lifetime of the grant. Additionally, funds will be used to hire another instructor, allowing more individuals to enroll in advanced welding and fabrication programs. All of this will provide an opportunity to focus on growing these important aspects of the workforce.

It is my hope that you will give Missouri State University – West Plains application for the Delta Regional Authority's Workforce Development Grant Program full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith

MEMBER OF CONGRESS